

# **THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST**

ISSUED BY THE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

11 DECEMBER 1963  
~~TOP SECRET~~



1. Bolivia

a. There was no progress yesterday toward the release of the hostages.

b. Government forces have all but sealed off the Catavi-Siglo area and are prepared to move against the miners when ordered to do so.

c. The troops may be reinforced by armed militia of the peasant organization which yesterday said it stood strongly behind President Paz.

d. Paz has delayed a decision to commit these forces and is trying a variety of intermediate measures. He has authorized the dispatch of a group from the national tin miners' union to Catavi-Siglo to negotiate the release of the four Americans. We think its chances are slim.

e. He has taken steps to freeze Lechin's funds and may try to cut off outside food supplies to the recalcitrant miners today.

f. Paz is not sanguine that these measures will work. Lechin yesterday reiterated that the hostages would not be released unless the government turns loose the three leaders of the tin miners' union it holds.

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g. Last night Paz told Ambassador Henderson that in the end he will probably have to use force or risk abandoning Bolivia to extremist control.

## 2. USSR-Cuba

a. The tempo of Soviet arms shipments to Cuba has quickened a bit in recent months.

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## 3. Honduras

a. A new crisis is brewing in Tegucigalpa.

b. The agreement between the military junta and Liberal Party moderates on measures to restore constitutional rule is faltering in the absence of US recognition.

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c. Moderate party leaders are having trouble keeping their followers in line. Opposition on the extreme left is taking a more violent turn.

d. A group of armed men yesterday seized the government radio for an hour and a half and broadcast threats of death to supporters of the military rulers.

e. This sort of thing could easily persuade the junta to rely on strict military rule.

#### 4. Thailand

a. Although the post-Sarit transition has gone along smoothly thus far, the Thai government is not yet out of the woods.

b. Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn has a week to formulate his cabinet, and considerable infighting is expected.

c. As matters now stand, it is not clear whether Thanom will merely provide stop-gap leadership or whether a new leader will emerge from a power fight now going on among military leaders.

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d. Generals Chitti (now army chief of staff), Krit, (commander of troops in the Bangkok area), and Praphat (minister of interior) are currently maneuvering for power. If none emerges dominant, they may end up sharing it under Thanom.

5. South Vietnam

a. Reports from Saigon say that Viet Cong guerrilla activities last month resulted in the elimination of many strategic hamlets in Long An Province, just southwest of Saigon, and in the extension of the area physically controlled by the Communists.

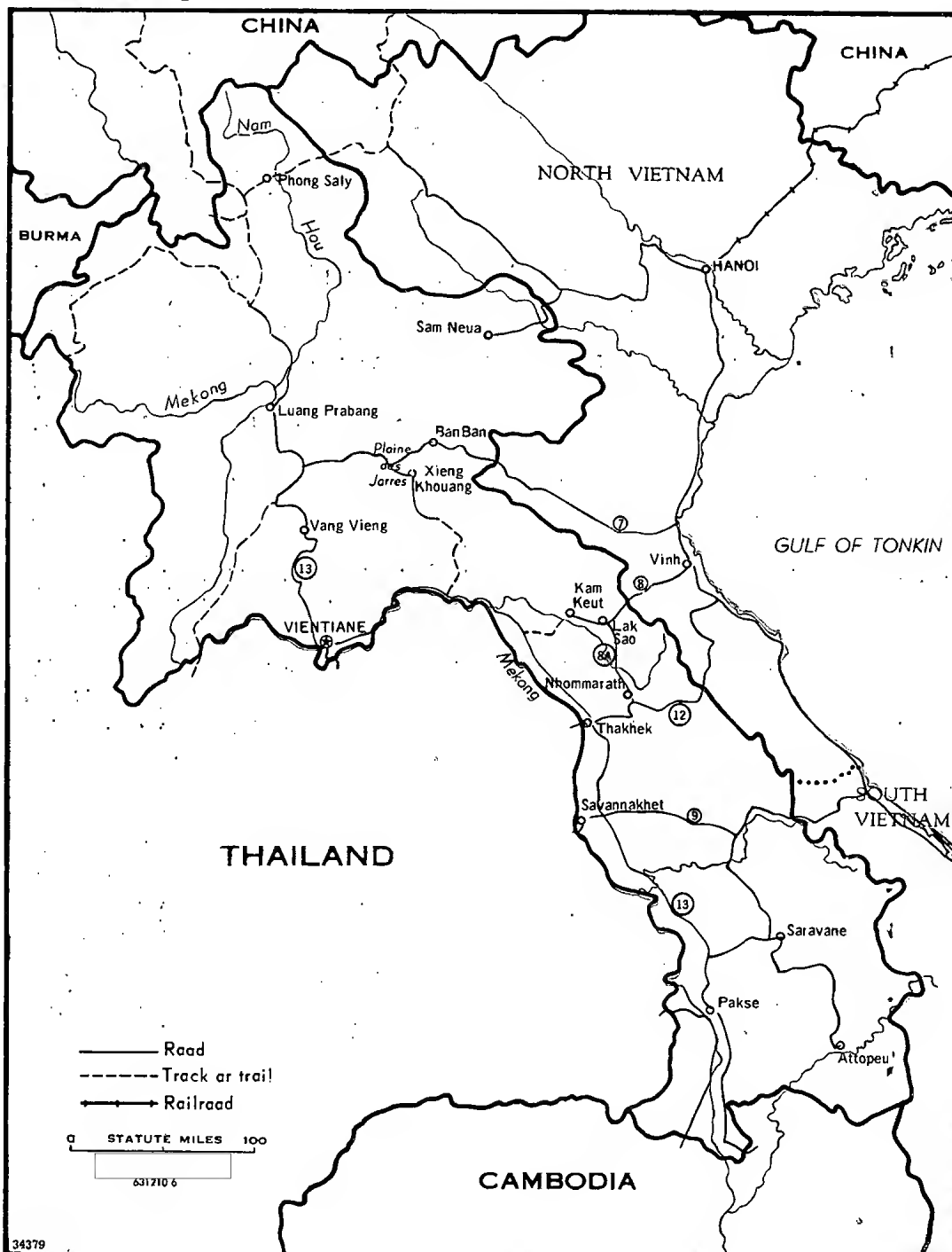
b. The province, along with two neighboring ones, bore the brunt of the intensified Communist effort following Diem's ouster.

c. Not only were the Communists relatively strong in this area, but the strategic hamlet program had been overextended to the point where all hamlets could not be protected by available forces.

d. [redacted] there has been a sharp deterioration in recent months of the security situation in Long An and other provinces near Saigon.

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# LAOS



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NOTES

- A. Laos We are suspicious of the ease with which right-wing Laotians have been advancing into Pathet Lao positions. Their latest success, the occupation of Lak Sao, a strategic post only 21 miles from the North Vietnamese border, came against only token resistance. A sharp Communist reaction could come at any time.
- B. British Guiana Prime Minister Williams of Trinidad has offered to help unseat Jagan. Williams says he is willing to send organizers from his own party, in power since 1956, to work at improving the organization of the fragmented opposition to Jagan.
- C. UAR-Algeria Nasir has dispatched  more shipments of arms and equipment to the Algerians.
- D. Indonesia President Sukarno has had to postpone his projected visit to Manila on 16 December to discuss Malaysia with Philippine leaders. A meeting is still in the works but it is not clear when or where. It could come during Sukarno's annual tour abroad which we hear will begin in February.
- E. Communist China Peiping has signed contracts for the delivery of half-a-million tons of Canadian wheat in the first half of next year. Purchases for the pre-harvest period now stand at 2.2 million tons, about three quarters of the Chinese average for this period in the past three years.

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**F. Italy**

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